

## **DECISION/RATIONALE**

### **Decision**

I have determined that implementation of the proposed action and mitigation measures to authorize the construction of the well and pipeline outlined in EA, OR-030-02-008 is in conformance with the land use plan for the Jordan Resource Area. My decision is to implement the proposed action and mitigation measures as described in EA OR-030-02-008. A Botany and Cultural inventory was completed around the project area to ensure no impacts would occur to these two resources. A well will be constructed in the Summit North Pasture of the Fifteen Mile Community Allotment, approximately .25 miles west of Highway 95, in Township 37 South, Range 42 East, Section 32. The well will be drilled and cased to State of Oregon standards. Harney County Electric will acquire an easement to place 2 or 3 power poles on federal land in order to power the submersible pump. The well site and meter loop post will be fenced in a 12-foot by 12-foot enclosure. A pipeline will be installed with a trencher on the north shoulder, within the disturbed area of an existing BLM road and will be 2 inches in diameter, approximately .8 miles long, and buried at least 18 inches deep. The new pipeline will connect into an existing pipeline which originates in Blue Mountain Pit Reservoir. Disturbed soils will be rehabilitated to blend into the surrounding soil surface and re-seeded with native grasses similar to existing vegetation. During surface-disturbing construction and maintenance activities, the holder will ensure that all construction equipment and vehicles are cleaned of all vegetation prior to entering public lands in order to minimize the transport and spread of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds will be treated by the BLM if they become established in the project area. BLM will monitor all phases of construction and a Cooperative Agreement with the BLM well and pipeline specifications will be adhered to. The permittee will be responsible for funding the entire project and maintaining the project.

### **Rationale**

The result of this project will be a reliable source of water for the Blue Mountain Pasture, Summit South Pasture, Summit North Pasture, and Sheep Corral Pasture. This project will eliminate the need for seasonal water hauling to existing troughs on the existing pipelines. Road wear and dust contaminants will be decreased because the permittee will no longer haul water. A reliable source of water to all water troughs on the existing pipelines will improve annual cattle distribution, which in turn will decrease average utilization rates and increase individual plant health and vigor. The construction of the well will not change or increase the AUMs of authorized grazing, but will increase the efficiency of cattle grazing in the affected pastures. There will be minimal local damage to vegetation around the well site, 12 foot by 12 foot enclosure, and pipeline. The pipeline will be primarily located within the existing roadway disturbance. The short term impacts resulting from well drilling and pipeline construction will be offset by the long term benefits of the proposed project.

s/Jerry Taylor

March 12, 2003

---

Jerry Taylor, Field Manager, Jordan Resource Area

---

Date